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NOTE ON THE GALAXY M51 AND THE GALAXY NGC 404 (ALSO M33)

A propos of the paper "Is NGC 404 a Variable Object?" in No 614 of this Journal I give my observations on some photographic plates of the Harvard College Observatory Collection picking at random but about the same time in general as it was given in the abovementioned number. All of them show that the variability if any of the nebula 404 was spurious and I must add that the appearance of it was always elliptical sometimes just very little but never stellar so that using a "witness" terminology all changes in appearance of brightness of the Nebula NGC 404 should be "stricken out". In this connection (very superficial) one may profit astronomically if one investigates the stars on or (in) the not too distantly situated spiral nebula M33.

On the little sketch of M51 I'm indicating a place where Professor Oort asked us to look for a star with possibly "ex-orbitant" characteristics. Most of the plates I investigated did not go faint enough but two MC plates were excellent and I could see down to the 18<sup>m</sup>.0. However, no star I could see at the place even less any variation of the background thereabout.



Observations of NGC 404

Oc.13.1930	11 <sup>m</sup> 9-12 <sup>m</sup> 4	Oc.19.1931	11 <sup>m</sup> 8-12 <sup>m</sup> 3	De.11.1934	11 <sup>m</sup> 7-12 <sup>m</sup> 0
" 26	" 12.0-12.4	Au. 9.1932	11.7-12.1	De. 4.1940	11.8-12.0
De.10	" 11.8-12.3	Oc.19.	" 11.9-12.1	Oc.23.1951	11.7-12.2
Au.15.1931	11.7-12.3	Oc.25.1932	11.7-12.1	Au. 2.1962	11.8-12.2
" 17.	" 12.0-12.2	De.22.	" 11.7-12.1	Magnitudes are ap-	
Oc. 5.	" 11.8-12.3	Oc.21.1933	11.9-12.2	proximately on the	
" 11.	" 11.8-12.3	De. 2.	" 11.7-12.2	scale given in the	
No 614.					

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VISUAL OBSERVATIONS OF AD LEONIS

The flare star, AD Leo, was observed visually for a total of 7.5 hours during the February 1972 international programme by members of the Variable Star Section of the British Astronomical Association. One suspected flare of 0.2 mag. was observed on Feb. 13, at 20<sup>h</sup>33<sup>m</sup> U.T. (by A.Forno), and two further suspected flares, amplitude 0.2 mag., durations about 20 seconds, on Feb.14 at 21<sup>h</sup>21<sup>m</sup>.7 and 21<sup>h</sup>24<sup>m</sup>.3 U.T. (by W.Pennell), but the latter were unconfirmed during simultaneous observations (by J.Isles). Hours of coverage are given in the Table, where parentheses indicate poor to moderate sky conditions.

1972	U.T.	Observers
Feb. 10	(2242-2251), 2252-2341, (2342-2400)	Is, Fo
11	0000-0016, (2129-2146), 2244-2304	Fo, Pe
13	(0230-0304), 2004-2132	Is, Fo, Bi
14	0049-0135, 1942-2056, 2109-2226	Is, Fo, Pe, Is
Total coverage 7 <sup>h</sup> 28 <sup>m</sup> over 4 nights.		

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